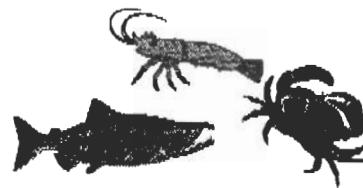


Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway
Juneau, AK 99801



Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

E-mail: seafa@gci.net

January 31, 2005

Country of Origin Labeling Program
Room 2092-S
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
STOP 0249;
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

RE: Docket No. LS-03-04

The Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance supports mandatory country of origin labeling and labeling of wild or farmed seafood products. We object to the exclusion of canned and smoked salmon products from the COOL labeling requirements, as doing so dilutes the effectiveness of this program to the consumers and producers of seafood.

Canned and smoked salmon were covered under the proposed rule and we object to the removal of these products in the final interim rule.

Consumers have indicated that they want to know where their food comes from and how it was produced. Now we need to provide the information that is being requested by adding in canned and smoked salmon to products covered under the COOL legislation.

The Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance is a non-profit membership organization located in Juneau representing our members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Hansen', followed by a horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director